

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 16 and 20. Claims 6 and 7 are canceled. Claims 2-5, 8-15, 17-19, and 21-23 were previously presented. Claims 1-5 and 8-23 are presented for further examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges Examiner's conclusion that claims 6 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended each of claims 1, 16 and 20 to include the features of claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1, 16 and 20 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6. Each of claims 2-5, 8-15, 17-19 and 21-23 depend from one of claims 1, 16 and 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 and 9-15 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 4,286,316 (Friend). As mentioned above, claim 1 was amended to include the features of claim 6, which was identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6. Each of claims 2-5 and 9-15 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 20-23 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 4,614,897 (Kumbatovic). As mentioned above, claim 20 was amended to include the features of claim 6, which was identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 20 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6. Each of claims 21-23 depend from claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 16-19 were also rejected as anticipated, based on the principles of inherency, by at least one of the references identified above. As mentioned above, claim 20 was amended to include the features of claim 6, which was identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 20 is allowable for at least the same

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reasons as claim 6. Each of claims 21-23 depend from claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.


It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Please charge any additional fees, not already covered by check, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 02894-743US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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